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SUBJECT	Egyptian Financing of Ex-Mufti's Trip to Syria and Lebanon	DATE DISTR.	19 March 1956
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DATE ACQUIRED	17 January 1956		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A newspaper correspondent (B); from an informant qualified to report on this matter (F). Appraisal of Content: 3

1. The ex-Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni, has been making a trip through Syria and Lebanon at the expense of the Egyptian Government.¹ The ex-Mufti, upon leaving Cairo, revealed that he expects to receive a considerable (amount unspecified) sum of money from the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia to be used for political propaganda against the Baghdad Pact.² The ex-Mufti intends to coordinate all anti-Pact propaganda on behalf of Jordan as well as pro-Egyptian students at both Damascus and Beirut Universities. The ex-Mufti also plans to launch a new propaganda campaign against King Husayn of Jordan, accusing the latter of selling out his country to the Western imperialists.
2. The Egyptian Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) is of the opinion that now is the right time to arouse legionnaires of the Jordanian Arab Legion against their British officers, and the ex-Mufti has been instructed to make an investigation at Damascus to determine the most feasible way in which this can be accomplished. Husayni has also been instructed by the RCC to discover, from appropriate sources at Damascus, how Jordanian National Guard and Arab Legion units can be used in the future against King Husayn and the British officers.³
3. Prior to his departure from Cairo, Husayni also promised to stir up the anti-Israeli spirit of the Palestinian refugees in Syria and to prepare them for more effective anti-Pact demonstrations which are to spread, at the right moment, into Jordan.
4. A further purpose of the ex-Mufti's trip is to examine on the spot the effectiveness of Cairo "Voice of the Arabs" broadcasts and to return with suggestions as to how anti-Pact propaganda can be improved.⁴

1. Source Comment. In addition to the support of the Egyptian Government, the ex-Mufti now has the full support of the Arab League. The League gave the ex-Mufti a credit of LE 500 (US \$1440) toward his

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Source Comment (continued): trip. The ex-Mufti's trip is a good example of the RCC's success in reconciling oppositional elements by adopting an anti-Israeli policy.

2. Field Comment. On 17 January 1956 the Egyptian Gazette reported that King Saud received the ex-Mufti on 16 January at Mecca.
3. Source Comment. Ibrahim is of the personal opinion that the ex-Mufti, with the encouragement of the Egyptian Government, is conspiring against the life of King Husayn.
4. Field Comment. See CS-88522 which reported that the RCC has decided to send wireless sets to Jordanian refugee camps and settlements in order that the refugees can listen to Cairo "Voice of the Arabs" broadcasts.

Headquarters Comment. The JIC Weekly, dated 16 February, stated that the ex-Mufti is now engaged in setting up a Palestinian force in Syria; this force, over which he would have general supervision, would be financed by Saudi Arabia, but remain under Syrian command. Husayni claims success in getting Egypt to give commando training.

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172.312
812.61
893.2
124.14
173.3

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13K (SK)
7P TSK) (LK)
7P (TK)
23K

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